



**To:** Connecticut Public Safety and Security Committee  
**From:** Erika Scheffer, Associate Director, Government Relations – Carrier Corporation  
**Date:** March 3, 2022  
**Re:** Letter of Support – [House Bill 5212](#): An act concerning the sale of battery-powered smoke detectors in the state.

Dear Honorable Members of the Connecticut Public Safety and Security Committee,

On behalf of Kidde, a Carrier company and one of the world's largest manufacturers of fire safety products, I am writing in strong support of House Bill 5212, legislation that would restrict the sale of battery powered smoke alarms to that of ten-year, sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms in the state.

Smoke alarms are essential to protect Americans in their homes. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a fire occurs in a home every 89 seconds across the United States, representing 74% of all fire deaths and loss. Nearly 3-out-of-5 home-fire deaths were in homes without working smoke alarms; and missing or dead batteries were responsible for 67% of home fires where a smoke alarm did not alert. This means that the number one cause of a smoke alarm failing to function is because its battery has been disabled, removed or otherwise tampered.

The National Fire Protection Association also states that a working smoke alarm nearly doubles the chance of a successful escape from a fire.

Smoke alarms equipped with a sealed ten-year battery prevent tampering and save lives. These devices also eliminate the potential for human error during battery installation.

Ten-year battery powered smoke alarms also reduce product and packaging waste by eliminating the need for twice-a-year times ten-years battery replacement, making the product more environmentally friendly.

The ten-year technology is not proprietary. All major smoke alarm companies manufacture these products, and they are carried at all major retailers.

Fourteen states currently have varying degrees of requirements for ten-year sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms. And in addition to Connecticut, five other states either have active legislation or are currently in the process of updating their regulations to address the issue.

Lastly, the average price for replaceable battery powered smoke alarm is \$10. The average price for ten-year, sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms is \$20. The average price difference is around \$10 between the standard replaceable battery powered smoke alarm and the ten-year sealed, tamper-resistant battery powered smoke alarms. However, after factoring in the cost of replacing the batteries twice-a-year for ten years, the ten-year battery powered smoke alarms are slightly cheaper in the long run.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and I hope that you will help keep the citizens of Connecticut safe in their homes by supporting HB5212. I can be reached at [Erika.Scheffer@Carrier.com](mailto:Erika.Scheffer@Carrier.com) for any follow up questions or information.

Sincerely,

*Erika Lynn Scheffer*

Erika Scheffer  
Associate Director, Government Relations  
Carrier Corporation